

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498

Serial No. 09/825,690

Reply to Office Action dated: 5/20/05

Response dated: 07/13/05

**PATENT
PF000030**

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-10, 12, 13 and 15-19 are pending in the application. The Examiner further noted that claims 1-9 and 15-19 are allowed, and that claims 10 and 12-13 are rejected. By this response, claims 10, 12 and 13 are cancelled to place this application in condition for allowance. All other claims are unamended by this response.

In view of the amendments presented above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

Rejections

A. 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zwahlen et al. (U.S. Patent 5,854,654, hereinafter "Zwahlen") in view of Oka et al. (U.S. 2003/0011685 A1, hereinafter "Oka").

In this response, the Applicant has requested that the Examiner cancel claims 10, 12 and 13 without prejudice. Having done so, the Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's application has been removed. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's application be withdrawn and submits, as conceded by the Examiner, that all of the claims remaining in this application are now in allowable form.

B. 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zwahlen in view of Oka and further in view of Palmer (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,829).

In this response, the Applicant has requested that the Examiner cancel claim 12 without prejudice. Having done so, the Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's application has been removed. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's application be withdrawn and submits, as conceded by

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the Examiner, that all of the claims remaining in this application are now in allowable form.

Conclusion

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. The Applicant agrees with the Examiner that claims 1-9 and 15-19 are allowable over the cited prior art.


Consequently, the Applicant believes that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Auffret

By:


Jorge Tony Villabon, Attorney
Reg. No. 52,322
(609) 734-6445

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

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